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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR 1991 ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION

Technical assistance to the Palestinian people

Progress report by the Director-General

Summary

Provides information on the progress made in the implementation of General Conference resolution GC.4/Res.7, paragraph 5, concerning activities undertaken for the benefit of the Palestinian people.

1. The General Conference at its fourth session requested the Director-General to report to the Conference at its fifth session and to the Board at its ninth session on the progress made in providing technical assistance to the Palestinian people (GC.4/Res.7).

2. As reported in document GC.4/14/Rev.1, paragraph 4, the Director-General created in 1991 a Focal Point within the Office of the Director, Area Programmes Division. Following the adoption of resolution GC.4/Res.7 by the General Conference, the Director-General formed a team consisting of the Focal Point, an economist and a research assistant to monitor the development of the Palestinian industrial sector and to better develop and coordinate activities related to technical assistance to the Palestinian people.

3. At the programme level, in February 1992 the Focal Point visited the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Jerusalem, including the West Bank and Gaza Strip, to initiate and establish a foundation for future collaboration with UNDP with respect to programme and project development and implementation. A joint review was undertaken of the progress made in preparations for a UNDP needs assessment report covering technical assistance to the Palestinian people. As a result of the mission and the review, areas have been identified where UNIDO assistance may be required in the framework of ongoing and future UNDP activities.

4. The main constraint for UNIDO in increasing its assistance to the Palestinian people is financial resources and the Organization has been actively searching for funding possibilities. In a few instances some preliminary but positive indications have been received.

ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

5. The Board may wish to take note of the present progress report.

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